

4.12 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs Federal agencies to make the achievement of environmental justice part of their mission. ***Federal agencies do this*** by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Where appropriate, Federal agencies will indicate the potential for disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income populations, minority populations, and Indian tribes. When conducting National Environmental Policy Act evaluations, DOE incorporates environmental justice considerations into both its technical analyses and its public involvement program in accordance with EPA and Council on Environmental Quality guidance (CEQ 1997).

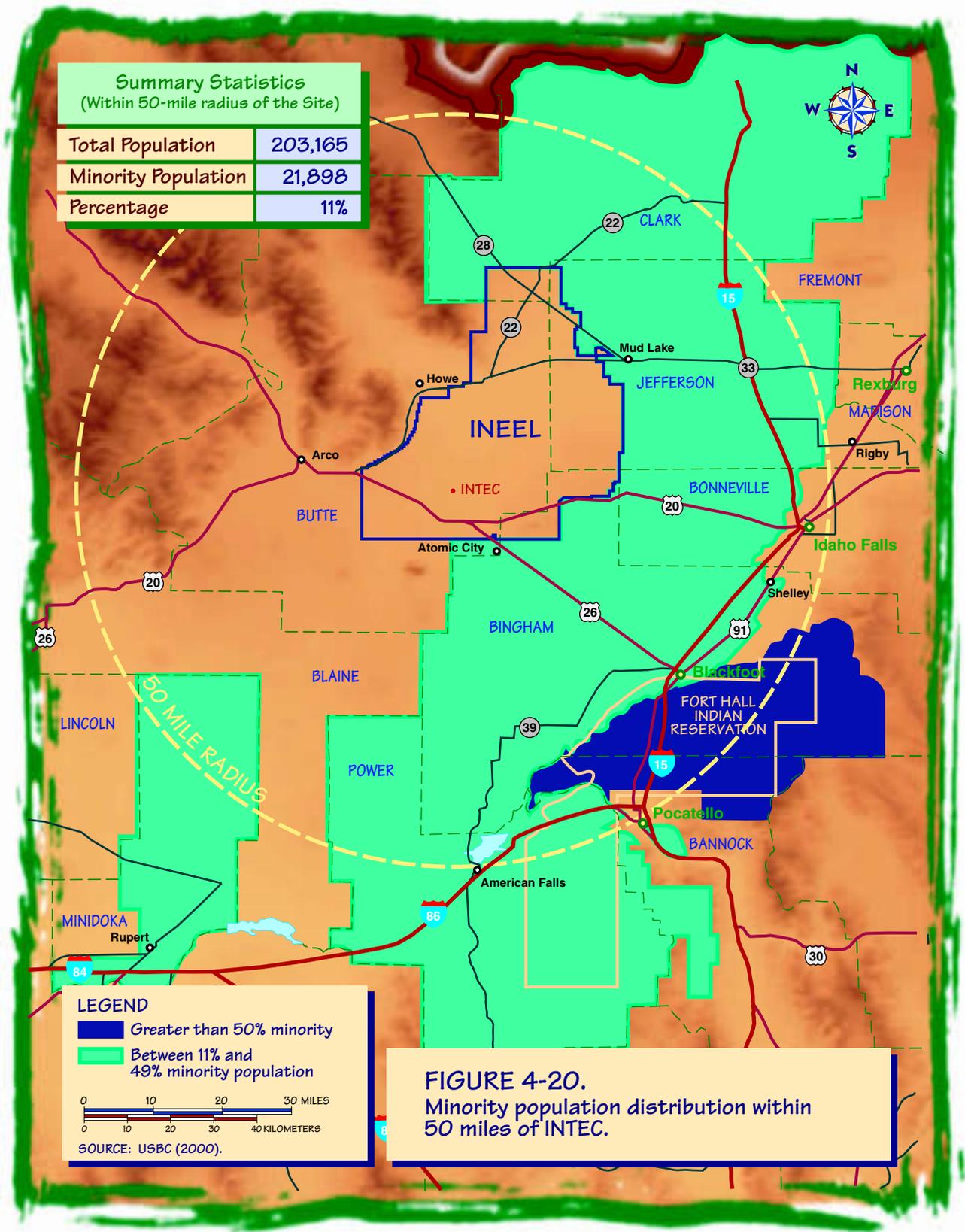
This section identifies minority and low-income populations in the geographic area near the proposed action. Demographic information from the U.S. Bureau of Census (USBC 1992, **2000**) was used to identify minority populations and low-income populations within a 50-mile radius of INTEC. ***Census 2000 data was used to identify minority populations. Low-income populations are based on the 1990 census data. The low-income population data from the 2000 Census has not been released.*** This 50-mile radius was selected because it was consistent with the region of influence for air emissions and because it includes portions of the seven counties that constitute the region of influence for socioeconomic. The circle has INTEC at its center since the actions proposed in this EIS would be carried out at INTEC. Therefore, INTEC would be the source of most emissions with the potential for producing disproportionate human health or environmental impacts to minority populations, low-income populations, and children. In addition, all of the facility accidents analyzed in Section 5.2.14 of this EIS were postulated to occur at INTEC. Potential impacts to minority populations and low-income populations in the region of influence from implemen-

tation of the proposed alternatives are analyzed in Chapter 5.

4.12.1 COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic maps were prepared using 1990 **and 2000** census data from the U.S. Bureau of Census. These maps were generated with census tracts and Block Numbering Areas (BNAs) defined by the Bureau of the Census, as geographical information system files supplied by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. and provided by Geographic Data Technology, Inc. Census tracts are designated areas that encompass from 2,500 to 8,000 people. Block numbering areas follow the same basic criteria as census tracts in counties without formally-defined tracts. Both are derived from the Bureau of Census TIGER/Line files. Figures 4-20 and 4-21 illustrate census tract distributions for minority populations and low-income populations. Environmental justice guidance developed by the Council on Environmental Quality defines "minority" as individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic (CEQ 1997). The Council defines these groups as minority populations when either the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or the percentage of minority population in the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographical analysis.

Low-income populations are identified using statistical poverty thresholds from the Bureau of Census Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty. In identifying low-income populations, a community may be considered either as a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. The threshold for the 1990 census was a 1989 income of \$12,674 for a family of four. This threshold is a weighted average based on family size and ages of the family members. Table 4-29 presents the U.S. Census poverty thresholds (USBC 1992).



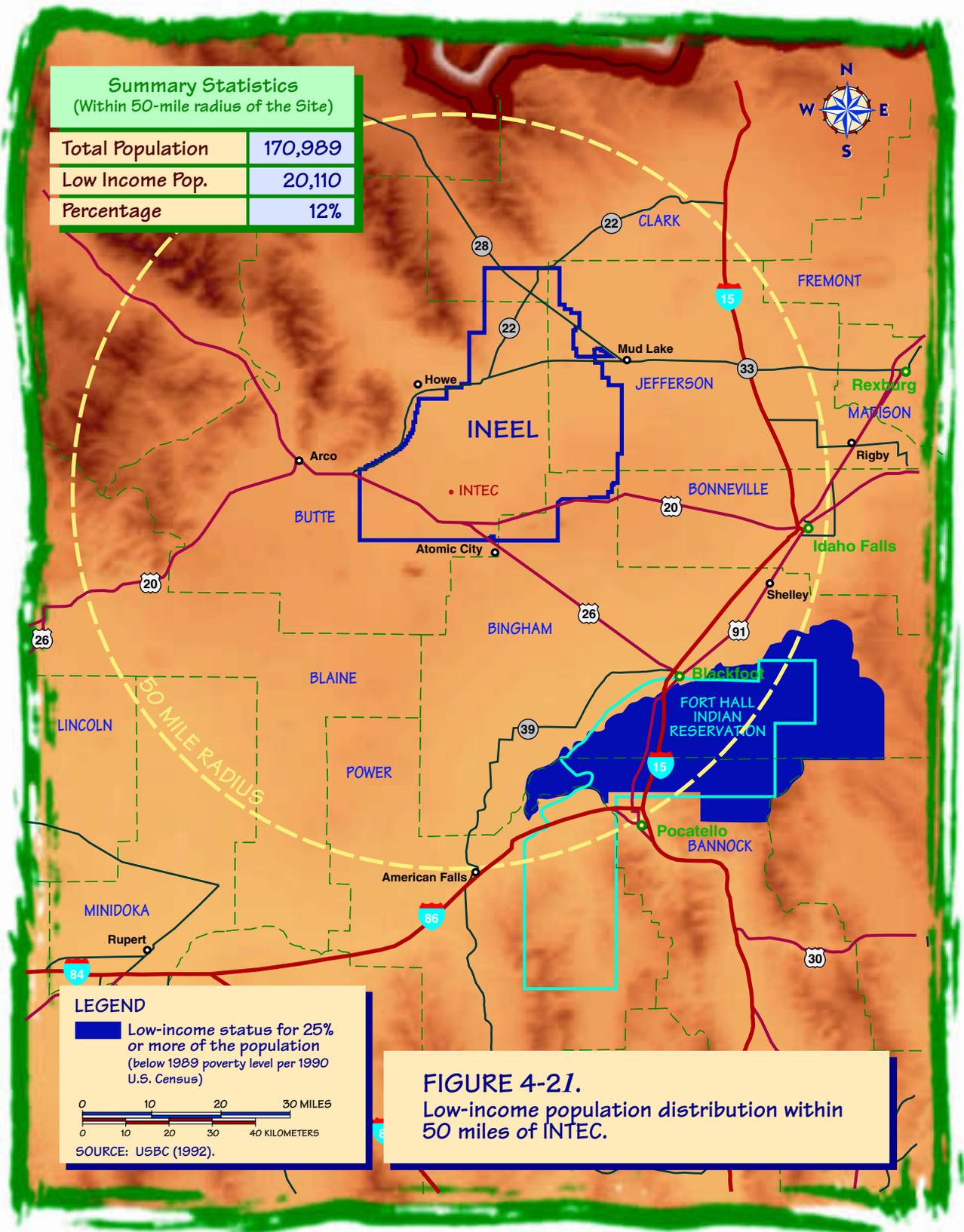


Table 4-29. U.S. Census poverty thresholds in 1989 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years.^a

Size of Family Unit	Weighted average threshold (\$)	Children under 18 years								
		None (\$)	One (\$)	Two (\$)	Three (\$)	Four (\$)	Five (\$)	Six (\$)	Seven (\$)	Eight or more (\$)
One person (unrelated individual)	6,310									
Under 65 years	6,451	6,451								
65 years & over	5,947	5,947								
Two persons	8,076									
Household under 65 years	8,343	8,303	8,547							
Household 65 years and over	7,501	7,495	8,515							
Three persons	9,885	9,699	9,981	9,990						
Four persons	12,674	12,790	12,999	12,575	12,619					
Five persons	14,990	15,424	15,648	15,169	14,796	14,572				
Six persons	16,921	17,740	17,811	17,444	17,092	16,569	16,259			
Seven persons	19,162	20,412	20,540	20,101	19,794	19,224	18,558	17,828		
Eight persons	21,328	22,830	23,031	22,617	22,253	21,738	21,084	20,403	20,230	
Nine or more persons	25,480	27,463	27,596	27,229	26,921	26,415	25,719	25,089	24,933	23,973

a. Source: USBC (1992)

4.12.2 DISTRIBUTION OF MINORITY AND LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

Accordingly to the 2000 census data, 203,165 people resided within the 50-mile INTEC region of influence. Of that population, approximately 21,898 individuals (11 percent) are classified as minority individuals. The minority composition is primarily Hispanic, Native American, and Asian. The Fort Hall Indian Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes lies largely within the 50-mile region of influence. The spatial distribution of minority populations residing in 42 census tracts within 50 miles of INTEC is shown in Figure 4-20. In some cases, census tracts lie partly within the 50-mile radius circumference. Because the exact distribution of the populations within such tracts is not available, the data are insufficient to allow a precise count. To address this situation, the entire population of census tracts that were bisected by the 50-mile radius circumference line is included in the analysis.

According to the 1990 census data, 170,989 people resided within the 50-mile INTEC region of influence. Of that total population, approximately 20,110 individuals (12 percent) fall within the definition of low-income for the purpose of this analysis. *Note that the U.S. Census Bureau has not released low-income population data for the 2000 census.* Figure 4-21 shows the spatial distribution of low-income individuals within the 50-mile region of influence.

4.13 Utilities and Energy

This section provides baseline usage rates on current INEEL utilities and energy, focusing on INTEC. It includes water consumption, electricity consumption, fuel consumption, and wastewater disposal. The contents of this section are tiered from Volume 2 of the SNF & INEL EIS (DOE 1995).